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Revision of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate examination time-table.

* 173 Q.—SRI H. M. JAGANNATHAM: Will the Hon. the Minister for Education be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the resolutions passed at one of the recent meetings of the City Headmasters' Association, one of which related to the heavy strain that would be caused to the candidates on the third day of Secondary School-Leaving Certificate examination by having to answer four papers from 10 a.m. in the morning to 5-45 p.m. in the evening; and

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to make any revision of the time-table?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(a) Yes.

"(b) The time-tables have been suitably modified as from the examinations of 1947."

Tuberculosis Institute, Egmore.

* 174 Q.—MR. K. O. ANTHONI: Will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) the number of out-patients treated in the Tuberculosis Institute at Egmore in 1946;

(b) how many had applied for admission in the Tuberculosis Hospital at Royapetta and Tambaram in 1946;

(c) whether the hospital at Tambaram is fully equipped for operation and other kinds of treatment;

(d) if not, what steps the Government are going to take in the matter;

(e) whether it is a fact that there is considerable dissatisfaction over the situation of the Temple Garden Hospital, Royapetta, in a crowded locality;

(f) whether the Government have any plans for increasing the number of beds in the Tuberculosis Hospital; and

(g) whether the Government have any long-range policy in the matter of treatment of tuberculosis?

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN:—"(a) The number of out-patients treated in the Tuberculosis Institute, Egmore, in 1946 was 12,517.

"(b) The number of persons who made written application in 1946 for admission in the Tuberculosis Hospital, Royapetta, was 92 and in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, was 109. Besides these applications, 3,249 persons who attended the out-patient department at Egmore asked orally for admission in the two institutions.

"(c) All operations except thoracoplasty are done at the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram.

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" (*d*) The proposal for the construction of an up-to-date theatre, laboratory, etc., in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram, was deferred on account of financial stringency. The Government are drawing up a general building programme for the Medical department and these proposals will be assigned appropriate place in the programme.

" (*e*) & (*f*) The Government have already sanctioned an expenditure of Rs. 3·5 lakhs for the construction of 12 blocks of 18 beds each in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram. Eight of these blocks are intended for providing additional accommodation in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram. and the remaining four for transferring the patients in the Tuberculosis Hospital, Royapetta.

" (*g*) The answer is in the affirmative. The Government have included in their post-war scheme for the first five years proposals for—

(i) Provision of 100 additional beds in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium, Tambaram.

(ii) Provision of 100 additional beds in the Tuberculosis Sanatorium Perundurai.

(iii) Opening of a new Sanatorium at Waltair with 100 beds.

" In addition to these the Government are examining the question of taking over the Wellesley Sanatorium, Bellary, by the Medical Department the opening of Tuberculosis Sanatoria at (i) Perapalli, Kurnool district, (ii) Salem, (iii) Madanapalle, Chittoor district, and (iv) Vallam, Tanjore district. The proposals of the Bhore Committee for dealing with tuberculosis are also under examination, with a view to implementing them as far as possible."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" Sir, in view of the large number of poor tuberculosis patients who could not find admission in hospitals, will the Government consider the desirability of constructing thatched huts in some suitable place for segregating these people and thereby saving the lives of other people? Have they got any immediate measures on hand? "

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" I would like to inform the hon. Member that tuberculosis is not an infectious disease as many people take it to be. Isolation and segregation are not applied to T.B. as it is applied to certain infectious diseases. In fact, there are T.B. patients in certain houses, where a number of people also live, but they do not get infected by it, although they move closely with them and sleep in the same room. Therefore it cannot be classified as an infectious disease. That is why Government consider that no such serious measures are necessary.

" With regard to the question of provision of funds for suitably accommodating them, even now huts are constructed to accommodate patients who seek admission in the Tambaram

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Sanatorium. But the pity is that these huts are not waterproof and they are not satisfactory in the long run. That is why the Government have sanctioned the construction of a number of buildings in addition to those that are already there at Tambaram."

MR. K. O. ANTHONI :—" I am glad to be enlightened by the Hon. Minister for Food on this matter; anyhow, the point is, if there is a tubercular patient in the house, whether there is any likelihood of the infection spreading. I am asking the Hon. Minister for Public Health, in view of the very large number of poor patients who are now walking about the streets in the City of Madras with tuberculosis, cannot something be done in their case to prevent infection spreading? That is what I want to know, Sir." 3-30 p.m.

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" It is a question of finance primarily. The Government know that people are going about; but they are not so dangerous to the public health of the people at large, although if they go on sleeping in crowded places, etc., no one can prevent infection from spreading. So far as housing is concerned, it is a much bigger problem than isolating them. The Government will have to incur a large expenditure if they are to be housed properly and they have taken the trouble of simply making a survey. It is in that view, Sir, that a large provision has been made. More than that, I do not think it is possible for any Government to house all the tuberculosis people in a city or in a town. That means it will be beyond the Public Works Department to provide accommodation for all the people. But in the meanwhile, house segregation and treatment in the house under the circumstances in which patients live is the only other alternative which is being pursued in regard to tuberculosis in the Madras City and will certainly be pursued until such time when accommodation will be made available; and I think this is the next best step the Government could adopt."

DR. SYED TAJUDDIN SAHIB :—" In view of the fact that raw milk is a fruitful source of tuberculosis, will the Hon. the Minister see that milk supplied in the cities, if not in the rural parts also, is pasteurized milk?"

THE HON. DR. T. S. S. RAJAN :—" Sir, pasteurized milk-supply in quantities is practically impossible. The Co-operative Milk Supply Union does supply pasteurized milk; but it is not milk that brings in tuberculosis; it is only in the case of a very very small percentage of animals that their milk contains this tuberculosis baccilli. It is not as if all milk contains tuberculosis baccilli and becomes dangerous on that account. In fact the whole country is being fed with milk that is available; but in this country there is one safety. Generally our habit is to boil the milk and then take it and our children also are accustomed to taking boiled milk. So there is less chance of infection by tuberculosis baccilli and greater chance of its prevention. In other countries, where

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milk is not boiled, of course the danger is much greater than it is in our country. This is our safety valve. The only alternative is perhaps, on a national scale, to boil the milk before taking it; that could be practised."

Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Public Health whether the Wellesley Sanatorium which he mentioned in his reply will be converted into a civil tuberculosis hospital? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" Government have already decided to take it over and convert it into a civil T.B. Sanatorium."

War service candidates for Medical service.

* 175 Q.—Sri R. SURYANARAYANA RAO: With reference to answer to question 3 answered on 31st January 1947 will the Hon. the Minister for Public Health be pleased to state—

(a) whether it is a fact that war service candidates in the medical service were asked to apply to the Federal Public Service Commission for posts;

(b) whether the applicants belonging to this Province were interviewed by the Madras Public Service Commission in October last;

(c) whether the Government have received from the Public Service Commission the approved list of candidates;

(d) whether any, and if so, how many of those candidates have been appointed;

(e) the names and the districts to which these appointees belong;

(f) whether the temporary appointments made of candidates during the war are still treated as temporary;

(g) whether there are still many vacancies in the Medical Department which remain unfilled, and if so, when it is proposed to fill them up; and

(h) whether it is a fact that there are hospitals in the Province without medical personnel or understaffed?

The Hon. Sri A. B. SHETTY :—" (a) Applications for the posts of Civil Assistant Surgeons were received by the Federal Public Service Commission up to 1st April 1946 and subsequently by the Chief Secretary up to 1st November 1946.

" (b) The Commission interviewed some of the applicants for Provincial services in October last.

" (c) The answer is in the negative.

" (d) & (e) No one has been appointed. No information can therefore be furnished.

" (f) The answer is in the affirmative.